JAN 4 1945

January 1,1945.

Dear Dr. Jackman,

I want to apologize for that letter I wrote about two weeks ago, concerning my leaving Fairbanks. I hope you have forgotten the letter. For we two have had a heart to heart talk and I believe everything has been straightened out.

I do wish we could get the rent business settled. Because that certainly was one of the items which caused the conflict. I haven't paid any up to date. But, if I'm going to be asked to do so, I'd like to know soon.

We had a very successful Christmas pageant-the first one of that size they have ever put on. I know all who worked to make it a success are very happy. Then, last night we sponsored an All Church Party witha beautiful, simple and impressive Watch Night Service at 11:30 PM.

Thank you for a very beautiful Christmas greeting.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Bechtel

Mr. Foster
Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner January 19, 1945

In accordance with your request we are quoting from Mr. Jackman's letter to Miss Gertrude Bechtel dated December 29, 1944:

"Yesterday I had a conference with Dr. Getty of the Camp and Church Activities office in Philadelphia. He felt their Committee would underwrite your program expenses up to $25.- a month. Their original suggestion was that they would take one-half of that amount but when I presented all of the difficulties which you have had he thought their Committee would take the program expense if our War Service Unit would underwrite the expenses for rent, light, and heat. This will have to be worked out here at headquarters.

Pending the settlement of this matter here between the two agencies, we are enclosing vouchers for your use. If the Trustee insist upon the rental payments you are to pay them and send us a voucher each month for the amount which you have paid on rent, light, and heat. This is retroactive from the beginning of your service....."

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

FK

Copy
Miss Bechtel - Folder

The Rev. Thomas B. Foster, Jr.
Unit of Work in Alaska (Miss Koerner) January 22, 1945
Rent, light, and heat vouchers for Miss Certrude Bechtel, Fairbanks, Alaska

We are attaching herewith 2 vouchers which were just received from Miss Certrude Bechtel, Box 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska. You will notice that these amounts have been divided three way as the house and expenses is being occupied by two other girls and Miss Bechtel. The attached vouchers are Miss Bechtel's share of the expenses:

October 17-Nove. 17, 1944 -	rent	$21.66	
	light	3.00	
	heat	14.19	$38.85
November 15-December 15, '44-	rent	$21.66	
	light	7.39	
	heat	22.78	51.83
	Total.....		$90.68

We will appreciate it if you will reimburse Miss Bechtel for these expenses.

FK

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

FEB 19 1945

MONTHLY REPORT

WAR SERVICE UNIT
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Reports are to be made in *triplicate*. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, or to Synod or Presbytery Treasurer as directed. A second copy is to be mailed to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed. The worker is to retain the third copy. (Use other side and additional 8½x11 sheets as needed.)

Church or Project served First Presbyterian Church Fairbanks, Alaska For the month ending February 15th.

Synod _____ Presbytery Yukon

Name & address of worker Gertrude Marguerite Bechtel; Box 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska

1. What marked change has there been in the situation which would increase or decrease the need for your services?

Because of the lack of time on the part of able individuals, because of the lack of many types of entertainment for young people in Fairbanks, because of the need of ability or training necessary for the formation of certain kinds of youth groups, I feel my services are needed to a large degree.

2. What were your activities during the past month? Express your judgment as to the effectiveness of the various phases of your work. List activities and average attendance of these. State number of visits made.

1. Weekday School for Primaries and Beginners in Young Memorial Hall. Mrs. Champlin, one of the mothers and myself are in charge. The first two are responsible chiefly for the Worship and Song service. News songs are taught, as well as prayers and reverence during Worship. I am in charge of the Handicraft and the Game period. The entire school lasts about two hours. This month we have had practically perfect attendance every week, with an average of 21. We have done various activities this month: spatter painting, the colouring of Old Testament pictures purchased from the Presbyterian Book Store, making of Scrolls etc. I have attended everyone of the meetings.

3. What are your plans for the next period?

A. Continuance of the following projects:
1. Weekday School for Primaries and Beginners.
2. Church Door Canteen for Senior Young People.
3. Girl Scout Troop for Fairbanks girls.
4. Handicraft Class for Juniors.
5. Senior Young People's Society.
6. Intermediate C.E.
7. Junior Choir.
8. Fellowship Hour.
9. Eskimo Worship Service and Sunday School.
10. Calling upon all the Church and Sunday School members, as many, each month, as time will allow.
11. Working upon permanent Church and Sunday School Records.
12. Assisting in the Sunday School at the piano and at teaching.

Attach materials which you have developed which you think will have value to other war service workers as well as pictures and publicity material which can be used in the promotion of the War-time Service Fund.

DUPLICATE COPY
Send to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

Memorandum

Voucher for the month of January

with report attached was mailed February 15 1945
DATE

Reports are to be made in triplicate. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, 156 5th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

A second copy of Report is to be mailed to the Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

The worker is to retain the third copy for his or her own file.

FEB 19 1945

II. Activities for the last month.

2. Church-Door Canteen.

This is an evening of fun held each week on Tuesday for Senior Young People. Each week the activity is different. The first Tuesday of this month, we had a sleigh-ride, second, a party at the Church at which we celebrated all the birthdays in January. It was also a farewell party for one of the G.I.s who was leaving for the States. The third week we went bowling. We have been permitted to have one alley aweek for our exclusive use, etc. There were 23 in attendance at the first party, 12 at the second, 15 at the third and 25 at the fourth, making an average of about 16. This is a brand new project and it will take several months to feel out the young people and see what they prefer to do in the line of a group activity. I have attended every session and I honestly feel that it is meeting a need and will even more so as time goes on and it comes to the attendtion of a larger number.

3.Girl Scout Troop.

We meet once aweek in the Church and have at the present time 30 girls on the roll. There was an organization a few years back. But, the leaders had to withdraw their services for a number of reasons. And because there were no new ones to step in and take their places, the activity was allowed to drop by the way-side. Since, I had the training and experience in Detroit, I volunteered to begin the troop again with the consent of the Troop committee. We have been organized now for three weeks and every week we get new faces who would like to join. But, until we are successful in finding someone who can spare the time to the Lieutenant, we will have to have a limited number. We have organized ourselves into Temporary Patrols, have begun to learn some of the Scout games and songs and the requirements necessary to becom a Tenderfoot Scout and legally a part of a Girl Scout Troop. Some of the girls who were Scouts before are trying to earn one of their Housekeeping badges by doing the planning for a Valentine Party which will be held the afternoon of the 14th. We are also in the midst of making plans for our Installation Ceremony to which all parents will be invited and the time at which all the girls who have learned their Tenderfoot requirements will receive their pins and offically become Girl Scouts. We have had an average attendance of 25.

4.Handicraft Class for Juniors.

This is also something organized just this last month, chiefly for the winter months when it is so hard for the youngsters of that age to find things to keep them out of mischief. Part of our period is spent in Handicraft and part in learning how to play a game. Ping Pong is the centre of our attendtion right now. We have made Plaster of Paris models, soap carving, basket making, etc. in our work period. We will do considerablly more when our supplies from the States arrive. We are limited to what we can buy in Fairbanks now and that isn't very much when it comes to that kind of thing. We have an average attendance of 12. It could be larger but so many of the youngsters of that age have paper routes and are kept busy there. The Four H. Clubs do this same kind of work. So when they become more active with the nicer weather, we may have to take up another interest of this age group. I enjoy it and am the only instructor at the present time. There are others coming in when our supplies arrive.

5.Senior Young Peoples' Society.

This group meets only on Sunday evening for Worship Services. But, during the week for a Social(Church Door Canteen). There attendnance had slacked considerably around the turn of the year. But, it is picking up considerably. They would average about 16 a Sunday. It is run by the young people themselves with Rev. Champlin and myselves as advisors or counsellors. They use the outline book of topics put out by the Westminister Press(I believe). One person is the leader with the other members of the group taking active parts in the discussion.

Intermediate C. E.

This society of youngsters meet every Sunday evening from 6 to 7 P.M. Up until two weeks ago, I was was their advisor(substitute) . Now the C.I.who was their sponser previous to my arrival has returned and is taking over again. I still assist them at various times but do not attend their entire meeting regularly. They have been averaging 16 this last month. Theirmeetings consist of a short worship service, short business meeting and the remaining time is used practicing on the music for their Junior Choir. We are forced to do this because of the great number of extra-curricular activities effered the young people at the Fairbanks High School. And also, parents prefer them not to have to come out in the evenings except on weekends. So, we have worked our music in on Sundays and our Social activities on the weekends.

Junior Choir.

The Junior Choir is made up of the boys and girls from the Intermediate C.E. Some can sing and some just occupy space. But, they nevertheless get something out of the Worship service which is so important in the development of the lives. We have an average attendance of 16 this last month-usually the same average as have attended the Intermediate meetings. They take charge of the musical portion of the Evening Service once amonth and part of the music,once amonth, in the morning. Lately, we have taught them some responses also besides regular anthems. They are getting ready now for their Easter and Children's Day Program.

Fellowship Hour

This is an hour or two of fellowship following the Sunday evening worship. Games, singing or a good movie usually provide the entertainment. The Ladies Aid provide excellent refreshments, with the young people doing the K.P. We have averaged 30 in attendance this last month.

Eskimo Service.

Because of an epedemic of Diptheria in the Eskimo Village, we have been forced to cancel our services temporary. The health officals had asked the natives to stay out of public gatherings until the strain is passed. We have had one meeting since my last report.

Sunday School.

I believe our Sunday School attendance is lowered than it should be. So we have been attempting to check up on our absences more carefully. Cards have been sent out and visits made to consitent absentees. Besides, I still preside at the paino key-board and am a substitute teacher when there is aneed. I am working on my permanent record for the Sunday School.

FEB 19 1945

Gibson Hq

February 15, 1945.

Dear Dr. Jackman;

I want to thank you very much for the arrangements you made concerning my rent, light and heat. Since you were so gracious in this, I prefer not to send in a bill for entertaining. For I thoroughly enjoy doing it and don't feel that it is a job I should be paid for.

We have been having the grandiest weather here this winter. We having been reading and laughing over the accounts of the terrible winter you people in the States have been having. The day before yesterday the temperature dropped to 45 below and then it was really cold. But, that has really been the first cold weather.

I will ever be grateful to you people in New York for giving me the wonderful chance to come to Alaska. I wouldn't be surprised if you don't have trouble getting rid of me at the end of my year and ahalf. I've enjoyed practically every minute of my stay here.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Beshtel

Box 2157

Fairbanks, Alaska

// Ask Mrs. Beshtel to sign her vouchers in addition to typing her name.

Mr. Foster
Unit Of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner February 19, 1945

We are attaching herewith a voucher which has been received from Miss Gertrude Bechtel, 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska for her expenses from December 15th through February 15th which are itemized as follows:

Rent for two months at $10 per month.....	$20.00
Light " " " " $6.- " "	12.00
Heat " Dec. to Jan. $9.00 and	
" " Jan. to Feb. $10.00.....	19.00
Total.....	$51.00

This $51.- represents Miss Bechtel's share of the expenses and we will appreciate it if you reimburse her the same.

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

FK

Att. Voucher in the amount of $51.-

March 5, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Miss Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Gertrude:

Your last letter sounds much more like an enthusiastic Church worker in the territory of Alaska. Evidently some of your difficulties have been worked out and you are having a better mental attitude toward your whole relationships. We are delighted with this because we know you will do a better work in a good frame of mind and our work will go forward in much better fashion when you are putting your heart into it.

We have received word from the Committee on Camp and Church Activities that a program grant of $25 a month has been made for you. We have billed that Committee for this money for three months advance. You indicated in your last letter that since we had agreed to pay the rent you would not charge us for program. We feel that you should not be required to spend too much of your money for the expenses of your work so we are planning to forward this $25 a month to you when it comes. If you do not need all of it I am sure Mr. Champlin will!

Yes, we have had some cold weather in New York and several times during the winter I have felt that Alaska weahter was not so bad in comparison.

Blessings upon all of you in your great service. Do a good job and remember Jesus Christ through all of your work.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

P.S. Our Treasury Department has requested us to ask you to please in the future sign your vouchers in ink rather than type your name. The auditors question anything other than a pen and ink signature.

MONTHLY REPORT

MAR 19 1945

WAR SERVICE UNIT
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Reports are to be made in *triplicate*. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, or to Synod or Presbytery Treasurer as directed. A second copy is to be mailed to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed. The worker is to retain the third copy. (Use other side and additional 8½x11 sheets as needed.)

Church or Project served First Presbyterian Church Fairbanks, Alaska For the month ending March 15

Synod ____ Presbytery Yukon

Name & address of worker Gertrude Beehtel, Box 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska

1. What marked change has there been in the situation which would increase or decrease the need for your services?

Fairbanks, like most Alaskan cities and many cities in the States, lack the suitable facilities to give the youth the right kind of recreation. The people living in these cities are really too busy or too busy making money to give much of their time to the needs of the younger generation. A person is urgently needed who can give her full time to that. I with the help of others have tried to remedy the situation to some extent.

2. What were your activities during the past month? Express your judgment as to the effectiveness of the various phases of your work. List activities and average attendance of these. State number of visits made.

MONDAY: Monday is my day of recuperation after a strenuous week. So no definate activities are listed for the daytime hours. One Monday amonth, though, the Mother's Club meets. I have only attended this organization once. Than, another Monday in the month, we have our Sunday School Teachers' and Officers' Meeting. I am a regular attender here, as are most of the teachers and officers.

TUESDAY: From 2:30 P. M. to 4:00 P.M. we have our Weekday School for Beginners and Primaries. The average attendance, this month, has been 17. We have been studying about some of the children living in various parts of the world, colouring and making posters show-

3. What are your plans for the next period?

TUESDAY: Church-Door Canteen. Choir.
Weekday School For Primaries and Beginners. Intermediate C.E.
WEDNESDAY: Girl Scout Troop. Eskimo Church and S.S.
THURSDAY: Handicraft Class for Juniors. Senior Young Peoples'Society
Choir. Fellowship Hour
FRIDAY: "Northern Light" publication. Calling on members and friends of the church.
SATURDAY: Church Bulletin printing.
Senior High Bowling League
SUNDAY: Girl's Java Class(Sunday Class over the coffee cup)
Sunday School Pianist.

Attach materials which you have developed which you think will have value to other war service workers as well as pictures and publicity material which can be used in the promotion of the War-time Service Fund.

DUPLICATE COPY
Send to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

Memorandum

Voucher for the month of Feb. 15 - March 15
with report attached was mailed
DATE March 14

Reports

are to be made in triplicate. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, 156 5th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

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The worker is to retain the third copy for his or her own file.

II. ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH.

MAR 19 1945

ING some phase of their lives. We have also been practicing on some Easter songs and pieces they will be using in our Easter Sunday School Service. Biblical stories have also been read. The latter fifteen or twenty minutes is spent playing games. I have attended all the sessions. Mrs. Champlin and several of the mothers assist.

At 7:30, each Tuesday evening our Church Door Canteen meets. One Week this month, we went an another sleigh-ride party with 25 in attendance. It was aglorious night with the temperature considerably warmer than the previous time. After an hour's ride, we returned to Mrs. Bingle's home for refreshments. Another time, we had the High School Gym for Volleyball and Badminton. Twenty young people turned out for this. One G.I. who is usually very hard to suit, remarked,"That he had never enjoyed himself so much in the three years he had been in Alaska". We returnad to the Church, this time, for refreshments. A third time, we had a "painting-party". It is the custom of the Fairbanks Church to have each organization take a section of the building and clean it up before Easter. We were assigned the Recreational Room. 15 young people turned out to do this job-G.I.s, the Brass, as weel as, Civilian young people. It was a very suddessful kind of party, but a kind you couldn't pull off very often. It would loose its novelty. The fourth one was an Ice Skating Party. The attendance was good considering the number of pairs of skates the group owned. The weather, also, was against us, being 15 below zero.

WEDNESDAY: Every Wednesday afternoon, from 3:45 P.M. to 5:15 P. M. the Fairbank's Girl Scout Troop meets here at our Church. I am the Captain. Several members or friends of the Church are on the Troop Committee. It has been a thoroughly successful organization, with a membership of thirty, with an average attendance, this last month, of 25. We have our opening session in the form of a horsehoe, each time, dividing into Patrols later for individualwork on their various crafts. Then, the last few minutes of the meeting will be a game period, a handicraft period or a Sing Song, closing with the Girl Scout handshake in a Circle singing taps. Today, we are hoping to vary our program by going on a short hike, returning to the Church to eat supper together. Another week we varied it some, by having a certain group of girls plan a Valentine Party and carry it out-thus having the fun we have at a party and also at the same time help complete one of our Housekeeping Crafts.

THURSDAY: Every Thursday afternoon from 3:45-5:30 P. M. a small group of Juniors meet in the church to play games and work at some phase of Handicraft. This monhh, we were specializing in the Modeling of the people and animals, sanding them afterwards and finishing them up with paint and varnish. We hope to put them on exhibition one of these days, because some are very cleverly done. We have averaged 8 at these meetings. I questioned the youngsters about the low attendance and they replied that many of the boys of that age are selling papers and the girls taking care of children. Those that do come seem to enjoy themselves and until it is more pleasant to be outside, we shall continue.

Our Church Choir meets every Thursday evening for its rehearsal. I have attended ever since my arrival in October. It is chiefly a G.I. Choir with a few civilians scattered in here and there. We average 20 in attendance.

FRIDAY: Every Friday, I go calling on the members of the Sunday School or the Church. Some weeks, I don't get very far because we get started talking and forget to stopuntil it is too late to call elsewhere that day. I've always maintained that a personal contact is worth thousands more than a telephone call.

Friday evenings is given over to printing "The Northern Light". We have a staff of six who help gather the articles together. The Editor arranges them the way he wants them. Then, two of the members type the stensils and two of us run them off on the machine. It is a good evening's work but one everyone concerned enjoys.

SATURDAY:

Every Saturday I print the Church Bulletin for Sunday. I feel there is much I can still learn about printing an attractive bulletin. But, I'm quite proud of the progress I am making in that direction, considering the fact that I had never printed one until my arrival here in Fairbanks.

Every Saturday evening, the Senior Young People and G.I.s go Bowling together. We have an arrangement with the manager of the Bowling Establishment to give us one aisle every week for the excusive use of our group. We have averaged 10 in attendance this last month.

SUNDAY: A new venture is the formation of a Girls Java Club. We have had difficulty getting the Senior girls out to Sunday School. So we thought we would try this for several months and see if it is the kind of class they would like to have. It has only met one Sunday and we had four in attendance at that time.

Every Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 4:00 P. M. we hold an Eskimo Worship Service and Sunday School. I play for the Worship Service and conduct a Sunday School for the Youngsters while Mr. Champlin teaches the adults. I have averaged 10 this month, smaller than previously because they are just returning after the Dip. Epedemic scare that went around the Eskimo Village for 6 weeks. We learn songs, read stories and do Handiwork.

The Intermediate C. E. Is being sponsered by a G.I. and his wife, at the present time. But, he is being transferred very soon. So unless I can find as fine a young couple as these two have proved I will resume the leadership temporarily. They have averaged 15 this month. They are the bases of the Junior Choir and have sung three times for Church Services, this past month.

Senior Young Peoples Society is a group of G.I.s and other young people who meet together for a religious service every Sunday evening. One of their members has charge of the topic with the other members taking part in the discussion. Then, at least once amonth they get together for a Social. They are the backbone of the Church Door Canteen also.

Fellowship Hour is a Social hour which follows the evening service. We have been averaging 25 in attendance. Our activities vary from movies, games, sing songs, dramatic skits, etc. Then the ladies of the church serve refreshments with the young people doing the K.P.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

Besides those activities mentioned on the first page of my report, the Young People and myself have charge of the breakfast following the Easter Sun-Rise Service. In the evening, they are assisting at the Worship Service giving several dramatic readings dealing with the Holy Week story. I am working with them to get these activities into tip-top shape.

Mr. Foster
Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner March 21, 19[illegible]

We are attaching herewith a voucher which has been received from Miss Gertrude Bechtel, Box 2137, Fairbanks, Alaska for her expenses from February 15th through March 15th which are itemized as follows:

Rent for one month.....	$21.66
Light " " "	3.10
Fuel " " "	9.31
Total.....	$34.07

This $34.07 represents Miss Bechtel's share of the expenses and we will appreciate it if you reimburse her for the same.

Unit of Work in Alaska
FK per

Att. Voucher in the amount of $34.07

MONTHLY REPORT

WAR SERVICE UNIT
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

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Church or Project served First Presbyterian For the month ending March 15, 1945

Synod Yukon Presbytery

Name & address of worker Gertrude Mitchell; Box 2187; Fairbanks, Alaska

1. What marked change has there been in the situation which would increase or decrease the need for your services? Most of the young people and children living in or near Fairbanks seem to have so much leisure time on their hands, especially during the winter months. There are very few suitable recreational and educational activities to fill these hours. Therefore, I believe our church and myself can much to perform this service.

2. What were your activities during the past month? Express your judgment as to the effectiveness of the various phases of your work. List activities and average attendance of these. State number of visits made.
   1. Junior Girls' Group meets once a week on Tuesday with Mrs. Champlin and one of the Sunday School teachers assisting. A worship service consisting of songs, verses and prayer, a handwork period and games make up our program. This month, we studied another of our brothers in this vast world- the Mexican. I met with the group every week, as did the others. Our attendance is holding up quite well. We averaged 15 for the month, though the spring weather is going to interfer as the weeks pass by. As a result, wewill push our activities outside, coming indoors for a short worship service.
   2. Church-Door Canteen for Senior High Young People meets once aweek on Tuesday evenings. We had the gym at the High school, playing

3. What are your plans for the next period?
   1. Continuance of the above activities plus a few new ones.
   2. Presentation of the play "Society versus The Church" by M.A. and Mrs. Dutton-a play on Christian Stewardship at some Sunday Evening Worship this coming month.
   3. Mother and Daughter Banquet presented by the Girl Scouts.
   4. The reconditioning and remodeling of the Girl Scout Cabin located on the Municapal Playground-a Girl Scout Project.
   5. Planning more fully the program for the Daily Vacation Bible School with the help of the minister, the S.S. Sup't. and the teachers.

Attach materials which you have developed which you think will have value to other war service workers as well as pictures and publicity material which can be used in the promotion of the War-time Service Fund.

DUPLICATE COPY
Send to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

Memorandum

Voucher for the month of March 15 - April 15

with report attached was mailed April 15, 1945 DATE

Reports

are to be made in triplicate. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, 156 5th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

A second copy of Report is to be mailed to the Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

The worker is to retain the third copy for his or her own file.

Badminton and Volleyball once. Another time, we painted the floor and the walls of the recreational room in the basement. A third time we met at the house and celebrated the birthdays of four of our members and the departure of two. Finally, we made it a theater party to see "The Song of Bernadette". We averaged 15 in attendance during the month, with me attending all the functions.

3. The Fairbanks Girl Scout Troop meets every week on Wednesday in Young Memorial Hall, while our Scout cabin is being repaired. We hope to move into it within the next week or two. We finished fulfilling the requirements for Tenderfoot Rank during the month. And climaxed that phase of work with a Pot Luck Supper and Investiture Ceremony for the parents and the girls. 43 were in attendance. The girls, with my help arranged a program around the table consisting of four little speeches on Girl Scouting, a talk by the chairman of the troop committee, the singing of Scout songs and an Investiture ceremony led by myself. They also set the tables and did the K.P. afterwards. I was very proud of them. We took one hike and had one skating party. Our average attendance was 20 for the month, with 34 now registered in the troop. This week 10 more girls have indicated their desire to join. If they meet the requirements, they will become a part of the troop.

4. A Handicraft Class for Juniors met every Thursday afternoon for two hours, modeling objects out of Plaster of Paris, painting pictures on pieces of glass, spatter paint, etc. Our membership is small but the same 5 or 7 turn up every time bringing a new member occasionally.

5. Friday evenings are spent in the printing of the "Northern Light" the small paper published weekly by the young people and which is distributed to the congregation on Sundays and mailed to service men twice monthly. All the articles except two are written by the young folks themselves. These two mentioned are the Minister's column by Mr. Chapelle and my column on the orient. We publish 100 each week with a mailing list of 50. I write the one column and am an advisor for the rest of the work.

6. Saturdays, we spend in printing the Sunday bulletins. I'm sorry to say but I have much to learn in the art of publication. But, when I consider that I had done none of it before my arrival in Fairbanks, I feel I'm showing some progress. I, also, help arrange the various classrooms for use on Sunday mornings.

7. A new addition, this month, to the Sunday School is a Teen Club for Senior Young Women. It meets at the Sunday School hour of 10 hour, over the coffee cup. One girl leads the lesson each week with the rest of us taking part in the discussion. Our membership is low, with an average of 5 each week this month, but we hope to increase the attendance in the month to come.

8. Saturday evenings, the Senior Young People have been turning out for an evening of fun and bowling. Through the courtesy of the management, we have an alley reserved for us from 7:30 till 9 . The expense keeps more from coming.

9. The Junior children have been very faithful this last month in their attendance at Sunday School. We sing songs, read stories and do a small amount of handwork. In addition we had a short Easter program for our parents during the Sunday morning hour. A special treat was prepared for them, also.

10. The Intermediate C.E. meeting at 6:00 Sunday evenings is still under the leadership of a C.A. and his wife with myself assisting. They are the Junior Choir and have sung at one morning and evening service during this last month. They must average 25 in attendance.

11. The Senior Young People meet every Sunday evening for a Fellowship Service and once each for a Social. 30 young people have been in attendance this last month. I attend all their meetings.

APR 18 1945

Ir. The Fellowship Hour is held every Sunday evening following the Worship Service. It is a period of fellowship with games, or a movie or a general sing song, followed by refreshments. Our attendance averages 35, with an overflowing number of 60 turning out Easter Sunday evening. I assist in the planning of the program and the preparation of the refreshments.

Ir. I have done very little calling but what I have done has been among the members of the Sunday School chiefly. I fully intend to do more in the month to come.

III.

6. Formation of athletic teams in the recreational groups that have been functioning this winter and spring.

R 18 1945

MONTHLY REPORT

Church or Project Served.....Fairbanks Presbyterian Church

For the month ending .....April 15, 1945

Presbytery .....Yukon

Name and Address of worker .....Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska

MAY 21 1945

Fairbanks Presbyterian May 10, 1945

Yukon

Gertrude Beckstel ; Box 2157; Fairbanks, Alaska

This last month, the Waacs have arrived in Fairbanks. There is much that the church and its workers can do to provide worthwhile recreation for them. Also, with the ending of school not far off, much can be done for those youngsters who spend the summer months within the city limits.

Monday

Sunday School Teachers Meeting - fourth Monday every month - 10 in attendance
Plans were made for the Daily Vacation Bible School to be held the second and third weeks in June. The theme is to be "Worldwide Friendships". I attended every session.

Tuesday

Weekday School for Beginners and Primaries which meets every week from 2:30 to 4:00- Average attendance for the month -14. Songs were learned and sung. Stories were read. Handicraft was done. And a play period. My brothers and myself attended all sessions.

Church-Door Canteen
1. Bicycle trips.
2. Weiner and steak frys.
3. Baseball games.
4. Other outdoor activities

[illegible] for Beginners and Primaries
1. Supervised play periods out-of-doors
2. Short hikes

[illegible] out-of-doors
2. Hikes and weiner roasts

Activities during the last month

Church-Door Canteen - meets every week, usually on Tuesday evening. Our average attendance has been 12. Our activities this last month included a steak fry, a Box -Lunch Social, a Theater-Birthday Party and a game night at the church. I attended all of the functions.

Wednesday

Girl Scouts- meet every week for a two hour meeting. Their attendance averaged 23 this last month, with 30 enrolled. They had a Mother and Daughter Banquet to which 46 mothers and Daughters came, setting the tables, assisting in the cooking of the food and making paper flower crosages for their mothers. The event was a huge success. Most of their time ,this month, was used in getting ready for the above occasion.

Thursday

A mixed class working on various types of handwork. Our attendance averaged 5 for the month. I attended every session.

Choir Practice - a group pf Service men and civilians who meet once a week to prepare music for the Sunday services. This month our attendance has been lower. 12 on an average. They will disband for the summer the first of June and we will have solos for the Sunday services.

Friday

Every Friday evening we publish the "Northern Light" which is distributed to the congregations Sunday and sent out to Service men twice a month. We have a staff of 5 with other members of the congregation contributing items of interest occasionally. I am the advisor and write several columns for them when they are needed.

Saturday

Our Bowling Group had to disband temporarily, this last month, because of the closing of the aisles. We hope to pick this activity up again in the near future.

Sunday

I am the teacher in the young women's Java Club-a Sunday School class which meets at my place over a up of coffee and a bun. Our attendance has been averaging 8. The young men have one, also, and is taught by the head of the U.S.O.-a splendid person.

I also have played the piano or led the singing for the adult department in Sunday School. I am gradually trying to work myself out of there and several others in. I would much rather not be tied down. Then, I could assist most anywhere.

Eskino Sunday School - meets every Sunday afternoon after the Worship Service. We sing songs. Hear the Sunday School story and do a form of Handicraft in connection with the lesson. Our attendance has averaged 15 this month. I attended all of the meetings except one when I was ill.

Intermediate C.E. - a group of youngsters who meet at 6:00 each Sunday evening. Their attendance has averaged 12 this last month. They have a business meeting, followed by a worship service. Then, once a month they sing for a church service. Occasionally, they will have a social together. They have their own sponser but I assist by playing the piano and when the young man in charge can not attend.

Senior Young People - a group of service men and civilians who meet once a week for a Worship service and then attend the Church-Door-Canteen each week for their Social. The average attendance has been lower than it should-10. But, they are very faithful in their attendance at Sunday School and at Church. So this slip doesn't worry me too much.

Fellowship Hour - A period of fellowship following the Evening Church Service. Games are played and refreshments served by the Ladies Aid. We have averaged about 20 this last month.

Area Annual Report - 5/16/44

MAY 21 1944

ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING MONTH

Church-Door Canteen(continued)

Excursions to Harding Lake
Birthday parties for those in May

Girl Scouts

Painting and equiping of the Girl Scout Cabins
Hikes and picnics
Cooky Sale to build up their treasury for camp
Helping with the European Clothing Campaign

Intermediate C. E.

Various projects for the raising of money to send them to Camp in July
Singing and taking part in at least one Worship service this next month
Bicycling jaunts and weiner roasts

Senior Young People

Taking charge of one of the Evening Worship Services
Taking over the cleaning and painting of the large Hall in which they hold their meetings
Striving to make their meetings more worshipful and stimulating to those who attend
Taking a trip with Rev. Bingle to Big Delta to help in the conduction of a service

Fellowship Hour

Out-of-doors activities to promote fellowship for those who attend the Evening Service. Sing-song services conducted around an out-door fireplace built by the Young People at the back of Rev. Champlin's home. Marshmellow and weiner roasts, etc.

Sunday School

Conduction of the Java Club for young woman
Playing of the piano and the leading in singing
Planning and the beginning session of the Summer Daily Vacation Bible School
Preparation for the Intermediate Camp held in July(Ordering of materials, etc.)

War-Time Service Calling

Continuance of my calling among the members of the church, its friends and other new-comers to Fairbanks

Eskimo-Sunday School

Sunday afternoon Sunday School session and then, perhaps, one afternoon aweek after school is out, for a play period(supervised) for them.

May 21, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Miss Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Gertrude:

Your May report is before me and as I look it over I am reminded of the busy life that you are leading in Fairbanks, and the effort which you are putting forth to make your work successful among the servicemen and civilians in the Church and community.

After your uncertain introduction to the work, I was delighted to find your enthusiasm for the task which you have before you. You are making the most of your situation and are making a real effort to be of service.

From my contact with you and the inquiries which I made among all those who are connected with your work, there are one or two things which come to my mind in which there might be some improvement. You will understand that I say this for your benefit and the benefit of the work. There is no question about your enthusiasm and your willingness to work; there is a little question about your adjustment to all of the interpretations and the reactions which people take to some of the things which you say and do. I picked up from several sources that sometimes your words sound a bit sharp. You do not mean them to be taken in that way but they sound that way to others. Perhaps if you would check on yourself in this particular thing you can make the necessary adjustment to get a proper reaction from people. Another thing which I would suggest is that you be a little more particular in going out of your way to be sympathetic and helpful in your casual contacts as well as your regular ones. These are things which probably occur because of your enthusiasm for your task and your application to each individual task to complete it as efficiently and as soon as possible. Think these things over and see if you can find in your own mind where they can be improved.

While I am offering these suggestions please understand also that we appreciate your enthusiasm and devotion to the task. You are trying to do your job well.

One thing occurs in regard to your vouchers. Our Treasury is insisting that all vouchers be signed in pen and ink. You have been completing yours on the typewriter and they also need your signature.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Mr. Foster
Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner May 22, 1943

We are attaching herewith a voucher which has been received from Miss Gertrude Lechtel, Box 2137, Fairbanks, Alaska for her expenses from April 15th through May 15th which are itemized as follows:

Rent for one month	$21.66
Light " " "	3.84
Coal " " "	6.63
Total	$32.13

This $32.13 represents Miss Lechtel's share of the expenses and we will appreciate it if you will reimburse her for the same.

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

Att. Vouched in the amount of $32.13

June 8, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Miss Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Becky:

In our correspondence with Mr. Fredsell at Skagway we think we have discovered that you and he received your program expenses of $25. a month from us for March, April, and May, and then in turn received a check for $75. direct from the Committee on Camp and Church Activities in Philadelphia. We have referred this matter to the Philadelphia office and find it has been true. We have had no information from you about this but suppose you have had the same experience.

Rather than returning the money, we are going to suggest that you use the amount received from Philadelphia for your program expenses during June, July, and August and we will not bill them for this amount nor will we send it to you. In September we will pick up the plan in the regular way of billing them for this expenditure and paying it to you from our Board.

We trust your work is going well and you are seeing many results from your labors.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

JUN 28 1945

GERTRUDE BECHTEL
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
FAIRBANKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH , YUKON PRESBYTERY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

I am sorry that it was necessary to make my report late for this last month's work. But, I have been waiting for additional forms to arrive from New York. They evidently have been delayed somewhere along the line.

My work for the month, May 15th. to June 15th. has been very full, especially with the youngsters of school age. For since my last report, school has been adjourned for the summer. Therefore, I feel that my services are as greatly needed if not more so than in previous months.

A typical calendar for this church in the field of Religious Education for any week in this last period would be as follows:

Monday

Boy Scouts led by one of the young men in the church
Mother's Club - one month meeting
Sunday School Meeting - once a month

Tuesday

Supervised Play Period for Beginner and Primary children
Church Door Canteen

Wednesday

Girl Scout Meeting

Thursday

Choir Practice

Friday

Publication of the "Northern Light"

Saturday

Bowling

Sunday

Java Clubs for older young men and women
Sunday School
Morning Worship
Eskimo Worship Service and Sunday School
Intermediate C.E.
Senior Young People's Society
Evening Service
Fellowship Hour

All of our activities with our young people, this past month, have been centered around the out-of-doors. We went on several weiner roasts and steak frys, several trips either in the automobile or on bikes, several theater parties seeing recommended pictures, etc. Our attendance was very good averaging 25 for the 4 week period. Our Sunday afternoon and evening trip to Lake Harding stands out in my mind and I would like to tell you about it. After attending the Sunday School and the Morning Worship Service, we (26) boarded a GI truck loaned to us for that day and took a bumpy, dusty, mosquitoey, 50 mile ride to Harding Lake and to a cabin loaned to us by the Fairbank Junior Chamber of Commerce. Games were played. Some courageous souls went swimming in very icy water. In the evening one of our young men led us in a very beautiful camp fire service consisting of singing, devotions and prayer. The food committee plnned a grand menu which was enjoyed by all looking at the empty pans and baskets we returned with. A wonderful fellowship was had by all-indicated by the beaming faces and the question"When can we go again?". Next time, though, we are going to make arrangements with the mosquitoes ahead of time and with the weather man(to provide rain the day before so the road won't be so dusty). I have made arrangements for another excursion in August which we are thinking about making an all church picnic.

Another thrilling evening we had was a trip up the river on a Houseboat belonging to one of the members of the church. We have made another date with this kind soul to take us in September when he returns from launching another boat down the river.

Every Tuesday, since the ending of the public school period, we have been having a two hour play period for the younger boys and girls who would not get in on the above activities. Several times we went on short hikes ending up with a weiner roast. Other times we went down to the Municipal Playground and played together. We averaged 15 for this last period. This has been discontinued for the two weeks that Bible School has been in session but will be resumed at its conclusion.

The Girl Scouts have also had an interesting time. We went on an all day bicycle trip out to the College, on a theater party and on several other jaunts together. Most of the time we have been fixing up our Scout Cabin located near the Chena River. We have averaged 20 girls in attendance. We have an enrollment of 35.

Our Choir for the summer is made up of youn people of Senior High age and older. Many of the regular members of the choir being on vacation. They have been singing simple anthems and been doing very well by themselves. They number about 12 in attendance, sometimes more, sometimes a few less.

The Northern Light is still being published once aweok on Friday evenings. This last month, we lost our regular Editor because of re assignment but the Assistant Editor has taken over. We print 125 copies each week during the summer months, sending out approximately 30 every two weeks to service men and women and other interested parties.

Bowling has just been resumed and the attendance has been very small. Anothr reason for the small attendance is that it is an inside activity and because of the shortness of the summers, folks have a tendnecy to stay outside as much as they can to absorb all the sun's rays it can.

Our Java Clubs are still functioning on Sunday mornings, though the attendance has been smaller than during the winter months. I suppose that is to be expected because so many U.S. O. actvities are planned for the hours on Sunday. The same can be said of our Fellowship Hour after the Evening Service. We are concentrating the activities of the latter out-of-doors which may help to keep the interest up during the next few months.

The Intermediate C.E. meets every Sunday evening for their devotional service and with the older group, once a week, for its social activities. The Senior Young People Society maintain the same program.

The Eskimo Service and Sunday School is retaining a good attendance during the Summer. We have averaged 13 in our Sunday School for the last month plus about a dozen more adults in the congregation. We are a thoroughly interesting people to work with and so appreciative most of the time.

I have done some calling but this is the hardiest town to find anyone in during the daytime and my evenings are pretty well taken up with other activities. I published the Church bulletin every Saturday, also.

Activities of the Coming Month

Continuance of the regular activities plus:

1. Planning of the work for my part in the camp at Palmer sometime in July.
2. Daily Va ation Bible School for two weeks
3. A week-end of activities during the visit of 30 G.I.s from Big Delta

4. A week of camping teaching swimming with the 4H Group in Fairbanks.

5. Children's Day Program for the Sunday School

6. Daily Vacation Bible School All Day Picnic

Gertrude Bechtel

Box 2157

Fairbanks, Alaska

I believe I am due the sum of $125.00 for this past month's work as Director of Religious Education in the Presbyterian Church, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Gertrude Bechtel

JUL 16 1945

MONTHLY REPORT

WAR SERVICE UNIT
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Reports are to be made in *triplicate.* The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, or to Synod or Presbytery Treasurer as directed. A second copy is to be mailed to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed. The worker is to retain the third copy. (Use other side and additional 8½x11 sheets as needed.)

Church or Project served Fairbanks Presbyterian For the month ending July 12, 1945

Synod Presbytery Yukon

Name & address of worker Gertrude Bechtel, Box 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska

1. What marked change has there been in the situation which would increase or decrease the need for your services?

Because of the coming of the summer season in Alaska and because of its shortness, many of our volunteer workers have gone to their summer homes or have taken vacations and many of the activities, especially those on Sundays have had to be taken over by the Staff. Also, many of our Service men who have been assisting have been re-assigned and we have had to step in there until others are found to take their places.

2. What were your activities during the past month? Express your judgment as to the effectiveness of the various phases of your work. List activities and average attendance of these. State number of visits made.

1. Daily Vacation Bible School
Dates - June 18 through June 29, Mondays through Friday, 9o'clock to 11:30

Staff - Rev. and Mrs. Champlin, Mrs. B. J. Bingle, 8 volunteers and myself

Program - Bible Study
Music
Handwork
Supervised Play

3. What are your plans for the next period?

July 12-July 25 - "King's Lake Conference at Palmer, Alaska

I will have charge of the Handwork for the Junior Camp and assist Miss. Braun who is the Dean of the Junior Camp. I am prepared to assist especially in Camp Fire Services having prepared several services that might be used, in athletics of all kinds including swimming and boating, and any dramatic skits that might be desired.

Many of the members of the Senior Young People's Society will take over the supervision of my groups while I am gone with Mrs. Champlin aiding them wherever needed.

Attach materials which you have developed which you think will have value to other war service workers as well as pictures and publicity material which can be used in the promotion of the War-time Service Fund.

DUPLICATE COPY
Send to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

Memorandum

Voucher for the month of June 15-July 12
with report attached was mailed July 12-1945
DATE

Reports are to be made in triplicate. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, 156 5th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

A second copy of Report is to be mailed to the Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

The worker is to retain the third copy for his or her own file.

, at 9 o'clock, all three of the departments met in the church auditorium for their Opening Exercises. These consisted of a song, a prayer, salutes to the Christian and American Flags and any announcements for the day. Then, they adjourned their departments and classes. Each class of the upper two departments was approximately 45 minutes but we felt that the younger ones could not be. We would leave it up to the good sense of the teacher in charge. On Fridays, at 11:30, we had a special treat. The first week it was a movie. The second week, we had a picnic at the Municipal Playground, each one bringing his own lunch and the Sunday School contributing a drink and ice cream.

Our teachers and pupils were very faithful. Our final enrollment was 79 with an average attendance of 60. Because of this good attendance, because of the beginning of some of our new scholars in our Sunday School and the attendance of many of their parents at the Church Services and because of the desire of many to have the school continue more than its two weeks, made me conclude that the School was quite successful.

Our young people entertained the service men from Big Delta recently. During their stay in Faitbanks, they were the guests of Rev. and Mrs. Bingle with our young people helping out in the entertaining. The evening they arrived, we had a theater party(a swimming party if it had been possible) with refreshments at the church afterwards. Sunday morning the two Java classes combined at my place for Sunday School with Rev. Bingle taking the lesson. After their attendance at church, they all ate dinner together at a local restaurant. We had hoped to get them into some of the homes but the number coming was so indefinate. Sunday afternoon, we walked and rode around to see the town. At five they returned to my place for a Buffet Supper, financed by the Society Treasury. In the evening they took part in the 6:30 service, the Evening Worship at 7:30 and the Fellowship Hour following.

Other activities of the last month have been:

Wednesday afternnons - Girl Scouts sometimes at the church working on badges or on hikes, swimming parties or playing baseball

Tuesday evenings - or another evening in the week - Church Door Canteen
Swimming parties, roasts, parties at the church

Thurdays - Choir practice for the Summer Choir

Friday evenings - Publication of the Northern Light

Sundays - Sunday School
Eskimo Services and Sunday School
Intermediate C. E. small but still flourishing
Senior Young People
Fellowship Hour - small but a good time and fellowship is enjoyed by those who attend.

JUL 16 1945

The Sunday of August 12, we are expecting, unless our plans fall through, to have an All - Church Picnic at Harding Lake commencing after the Morning Service. Each family would bring his own lunch with the church providing the drink. A Camp Fire service would be held at the regular Sunday Church Service hour. A varied recreational program would be planned for the afternoon.

The Girl Scouts are expecting to have a weekend at camp near the first of August, at which time they will attempt to pass some of their out-door badges and have a general good time.

Later, in the month of August the Young People wish to have one more outing of their own at Harding Lake. The other one was a wonderful success even with the mosquitoes and rain.

Beginning planning the program to be submitted to the minsiter and other group representatives for the Fall work.

July 10, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Miss Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Becky:

We have received your monthly vouchers for expenses during the months of May and June. You have not indicated on them what these amounts covered and how they should be divided. The one for May is $33.66 and the one for June $30.23. May we ask you to give us a little more specific information so we may know how to divide them between War Service and Camp and Church?

We have not yet been able to straighten out the difficulty with Camp and Church over their method of providing your program expense. On the basis of their action in regard to program expense for Mr. Fredsell in Skagway, duplicate payments were made through our office and Camp and Church office in Philadelphia. We thought we had this matter straightened out but find it is not. Your appropriation was made at the same time as the appropriation for Skagway, but we have not heard from you whether their payments were duplicated to you also. May we ask you to send us a statement of what you have received from us and also from Camp and Church on program assistance? We can do nothing on this until we have a report from you.

We trust that your work is going well and that you are having a good summer. Your reports are full of activities of many good things.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

7/30/45

JUL 30 1945

July 26, 1945
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Dr. Jackman,

I'm sorry not to have answered your letter sooner. But, we just pulled into Fairbanks last night after ten days at King's Lake Camp. And this is my first opportunity to write you.

20 of us from Fairbanks went to the Camp and enjoyed every moment of it. Besides, thoroughly enjoying the Recreational Program made up of swimming, boating, baseball, volleyball etc. everyone experienced something in his classes, in the Vesper Services and in this Christian Fellowship that they will not soon forget. Everyone without an exception is starting now to save up for next year's camp, showing how much they really enjoyed their stay there.

The camp membership was smaller this year, with Fairbank's delegation being the largest. We are very proud also to return home with two out of three of the offices for next year on the Student Council.

I personally have never had any ten day camp empress me more than this year's King Lake Camp did. The staff was made up of so many interesting and talented workers. Betty Braun was especially marvelous. I'm sorry my Summer School program for next year will not permit me to stay until the camp meets again next August. If I did, I would be loosing all the credit that I have accumulated for the last four years toward my Master's Degree and would have to begin all over again. This I can't afford to do.

The money I mentioned in my last letter to you had to do with my house expense for the last two months. I had failed to hand it in previously with my reports. As to the sum for entertaining, I fail to see where any duplication has been made in my case. And was very surprised when you wrote and said that you believed there had been and I would therefore not receive any money for the months of June-August. As to the exact amount sent me for Church and program assistance, I am in the dark. I can't discern, by looking at my check book, which sums were for that and which for housing. So I can be of no assistance there. I am sorry.

Cordially yours,

Gertrude Beahtel

Bechtel

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

July 30, 1945

The Rev. Walter Getty
Room #503
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

My dear Mr. Getty:

We have just received a communication from Miss Gertrude Bechtel at Fairbanks in reference to her program allowance appropriation of $25.- a month from Camp and Church Activities Committee.

On March 23rd we received a $75.- appropriation for Miss Bechtel for the months of March, April, and May from your office. Then we presumed, as in the case of The Rev. Mr. Fredsell of Skagway, that a duplicate check for $75.- had been sent her which could be applied for June, July, and August. This latter check had been sent directly from your office in the case of The Rev. Mr. Fredsell. However, Miss Bechtel fails to see where any duplication has been made in her case and is surprised to learn that she will receive no money for the months of June through August. Will you check your records and see if the $75.- forwarded to us in March is the only appropriation which has been made to Miss Bechtel? If this is the case then our bill for $720.- sent you on July 27th should be supplemented by $75.- for the months of June, July, and August 1945 for Miss Bechtel's program allowance, and the total on this bill should be $795.- instead of the $720.- asked for. We shall appreciate any information you can give us which will clear this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Frieda Koerner, Secretary to
J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

FK

Mr. Foster
Unit of Work in Alaska - Miss Koerner July 31, 1945

We are attaching herewith two vouchers which have been received from Miss Gertrude Bechtel, Box 2137, Fairbanks, Alaska for her house expenses from May 15th through July 14th:

May 15-June 14	$33.66
June 15-July 14	30.23
Total	$63.89

Will you please reimburse her for this total amount? Thank you.

Unit of Work in Alaska
per

FK

Att.: 2 vouchers (signed)

AUG 17 1945

MONTHLY REPORT

AUG 22 1945

WAR SERVICE UNIT
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Reports are to be made in *triplicate*. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, or to Synod or Presbytery Treasurer as directed. A second copy is to be mailed to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed. The worker is to retain the third copy. (Use other side and additional 8½x11 sheets as needed.)

Church or Project served Fairbanks Presbyterian For the month ending August 15

Synod Yukon Presbytery

Name & address of worker Gertrude Bechtel, Box 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska

1. What marked change has there been in the situation which would increase or decrease the need for your services?

With more and more volunteer workers leaving our Fairbanks' area, I feel that my services are needed to provide religious opportunities, fellowship and recreation for those remaining. Very few if any new

2. What were your activities during the past month? Express your judgment as to the effectiveness of the various phases of your work. List activities and average attendance of these. State number of visits made.

I. King's Lake Camp - July 12-July 25
   1. Teacher of Handwork to all the Junior Campers(about 25 in number)
      a. This class once a day 6 days of the week for one hour.
      b. The youngsters were also permitted to return in the afternoon, during their free time to return and continue their work.
      c. Spat Painting, Glass Painting, Clay Modeling, Plaster of Paris Modeling, Macroni Jewelry, Nature Scrapbooks, Picture Painting, etc.
   2. Leader in one of the Junior Cabins.
   3. Assistant to Key Bingle for the Recreation of the Camp.
   4. In charge of several CampFires.
   5. Assistant Pianist
   6. Various other activities.

3. What are your plans for the next period?

On the enclosed sheet.

Attach materials which you have developed which you think will have value to other war service workers as well as pictures and publicity material which can be used in the promotion of the War-time Service Fund.

DUPLICATE COPY
Send to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

Memorandum

Voucher for the month of July 15-Aug. 15
with report attached was mailed August 15
DATE

Reports are to be made in triplicate. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, 156 5th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

A second copy of Report is to be mailed to the Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

The worker is to retain the third copy for his or her own file.

AUG 17 1945

ACTIVITIES OF THE PAST MONTH

II. Girl Scout Troop.
   a. Painting and furnishing their Girl Scout Cabin.
   b. Average attendance of about 10.

III. Church-Door Canteen
   a. Birthday Party for the Champlins(attendance of 21) c. Bowling Party
   b. Picnic at Harding Lake.

IV. Eskimo Sunday School.
   a. Simple worship service made up of singing, a Bible story, prayer
   b. Sunday School Handwork
   c. Average attendance of 12.

V. Intermediate C. E.
   a. Worship service on Sundays with a member taking charge. Followed by a Business meeting.
   b. Average of 8(most of the members being at camp with us)
   c. Socials combined with the Senior Group during the summer.

VI. Senior Young People.
   a. Worship service on Sunday evenings
   b. Form basis for the Church-Door Canteen

VII. Fellowship Hour.
   a. Games, song service, etc. following the Evening Worship.
   b. Average of 15 during the month.

VIII. Sunday School Treasurer for the summer months.

August 27, 1945

AIR MAIL

Miss Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Gertrude:

Your last report indicates that your qualified helpers and many other families are leaving Fairbanks. With the end of the war, we are wondering if Ladd Field will not be a great deal reduced and much of the construction activity will also disappear. If all this should develop rapidly, will your job be on the way out?

We have an agreement with you of eighteen months and twelve of these months will be up the middle of October. We expect to fulfill our part of the agreement so that you need have no grave concern about the support from this end. However, if the need for your services in Fairbanks should disappear earlier than we had expected, what would you feel like doing? Would you want to stay on there with little to do or would you feel that you ought to return earlier than we anticipated.

I am writing this to you now before it is too late for you to think of something in the States for the fall, if you should feel that you would want to return before your time is finished. Please understand that there is no pressure about this, but simply a concern for your welfare and the readjustment which must come after your service in Alaska. We are sending a copy of this letter to your family so that they may be informed as to developments.

Let me hear from you at an early date so that we will know your plans and make whatever adjustments are necessary.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ/mk

CC: Dr. Leslie A Bechtel

Dictated but not signed by
Dr. Jackman

September 14, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Miss Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Becky:

Your letter about your future plans came while I was in Chicago. Your father and mother were there and they had a copy of the letter which I was privileged to read. They and I appreciated the fine spirit which you showed in it.

Inasmuch as things are rather uncertain up there, it would seem wise for you to return to the States if you so desire. There are many opportunities of service here where you could fit in either with a school or with a Church. I think it well that you had made your reservations as of October 15th for your return.

You have indicated our present situation. We have an eighteen months commitment to you and your services in Fairbanks was to cover at least that much time in order to provide for your full transportation expenses up and back. If you returnas of October 15th what do you feel would be the fair thing for us to do in fulfillment of our responsibility? You have indicated that you would not have enough money yourself to pay one-third the cost of the return trip. Would it be fair for us to suggest that we would pay the full cost of the return and end our agreement with you as of October 31st, or should we ask you to pay the one-third of the return trip and continue our commitment to you for another six months and place you in some other work in the States for that period of time. If you would prefer to have us pay the full cost and end our agreement as of October 31st we could do that, or if you would prefer to pay the one-thrid cost of the return trip and have us find a place for you in war service work for six months we could do that. I consulted your parents about this question but they would prefer to have you make the decision. We shall await word from you on this before anything is finally decided. If our commitment will be extended for the six months, we would then ask the War Service Unit where they could use you during that period of time. Let us know as soon as possible.

We are interested in all the rumors in all the developments in Alaska because our whole program is concerned with them in the future. Any information which you can give us will be helpful.

We are glad to have you write in such fine spirit about The Champlin's and about your months of service up there. At the beginning I was afraid that this might be a bad experience for you but we are delighted to have it turn out favorable.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

P.S. Your letter of September 11th has just arrived and you answer the question which we have asked. I shall ask the War Service Unit to pay the expense of your return and you will consider that we have no further responsibility to you in your term of service. We shall also ask them to forward a travel advance to you which ought to cover all your travel cost and you can give us an accounting after you have reached home.

SEP 14 1945

September 11,1945

Dear Dr. Jackman,

I haven't as yet received any answer from my letter concerning terminating my contract with you. And I was wondering what decision you had made?

Boat reservations are very difficult to get these days since V-J Day. So it will be necessary for me to take the date whenever they can give it to me. That means anywhere from the first of October to the first of November. And the time is getting very short.

I personally am not interested in taking any other job in Alaska at the present time. I have had a year up here and have enjoyed it thoroughly but desire to return to the States now. And if the Board will take care of the expense of my return trip from Fairbanks to Detroit, I do not feel that they should consider themselves responsible to keep me employed for the next six months. I am quite exhausted having no vacation this summer and feel that before I resume my work I'd like to take a few weeks off and get myself back in the peek of condition. That's only fair to my new employer, whomever he will be.

May I hear from you at your earliest convenience?

Yours sincerely,

Gertrude Bechtel

SEP 5 1945

August 31,1945
Fairbanks,Alaska

Dear Dr. Jackman,

I wish to thank you very much for your letter of the 27th. I have thought seriously about it and am now ready to give you my answer.

The day following the first indication of peace with the Japanese, Rev. Champlin asked me,"Whether I would be interested in staying on after the conclusion of the war?" I asked him if it wasn't really up to you and he to decide when my services were no longer required. He said,"No, since the war had practically ended, it was up to me to decide whether I was interested in staying until April 1st., 1946". I considered the question for a few minutes and then I gave him this answer. "I would personally like to return to the States IF there wouldn't be enough work here for an extra person, aside from he and his wife, after the G.I.s left and IF I could get out before the winter weather set in for I am a terrible sailor. I wouldnot care to sit around and do little or nothing and draw a check of $125 plus every month when I might be worth my salt back in the States somewhere. But, that I am not in condition to pay a third of the way back if I left before the 1st. of April, as I have been buying movies, slides, etc. for use in speaking on Alaska on my return."

Another factor in my return to the States is the terrible rainy weather we have had since my arrival here in October. I am very allergic to that kind of weather, as my folks will verify as will the doctors at Ford Hospital in Detroit. And at least once a month, since my arrival, I have had several days and sometimes longer of bad breathing. And I am absolutely worthless when I feel like that. It isn't anything new. I've had it ever since I was a kid. Right now, I am having another session with it and certainly am not looking forward to a winter of it.

I have never enjoyed 11 months of working anywhere, as much as I have with Rev. and Mrs. Champlin and the good folks of Fairbanks. I will sincerely regret leaving them. I hope during my stay there I have helped to makethe lives of the service men a little more pleasant, to lessen the load so capably handled by Mr. Champlin, to stimulate the continuance of activities begun with the civilian young people.

Rumors are still flying around as to when the personnel of Ladd Field will definately pull out. The way things look now, the middle of October would be a safe bet. Therefore, I could conscienciously leave anytime after the conclusion of my twelve months that you would want me too. Tentatively, I am putting reservations in with the Alaskan Steamship Line for that time. Sailings are so difficult to get that it is well to get them in a good while ahead of time.

I wish to thank you, the Board, and the War-Time Service for this wonderful opportunity I have been privileged to have. And I will forever be in your debt for it.

May I have a letter in reply in the very near future, as I want to begin my Fall Program with the beginning of school, the second week in September and do not want to start anything new that I can't get carefully moving before my departure? Also, I want to lay plans for my work in the States on my return. All this takes time.

Thanking you again, Dr. Jackman, I am

Sincerely,

Gertrude Bechtel

Gertrude Bechtel
Box 2157
Fairbanks

SEP 21 1945

MONTHLY REPORT

WAR SERVICE UNIT
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Reports are to be made in *triplicate*. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, or to Synod or Presbytery Treasurer as directed. A second copy is to be mailed to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed. The worker is to retain the third copy. (Use other side and additional 8½x11 sheets as needed.)

Church or Project served First Presbyterian Church For the month ending September 15,1945

Synod Presbytery Yukon

Name & address of worker Gertrude Bechtel, Box 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska

1. What marked change has there been in the situation which would increase or decrease the need for your services?

In the last month, the war in the Pacific has ended. In the few weeks that have passed, many of our Service men and women have received their orders to report to the States for re-assignment or for discharging. More will receive theirs in the next month. There will be about 400 left at the field to take care of the necessary work but that number if considerable less from its war-time quoto. Therefore, I think my services could be dispenced with October 15th. or from then on, because the work that will be left can be done by the minister and his wife and the capable volunteer workers in the congregation.

2. What were your activities during the past month? Express your judgment as to the effectiveness of the various phases of your work. List activities and average attendance of these. State number of visits made.

1. Sunday School.

The Sunday School is beginning to get back into its stride again. We have averaged 80 for the month and the attendance is going up. We have our business meeting the last Monday of each month with a fair attendance. This month we are going to try and have it in the form of a tea to see if we can bolster the attendance. It will be held in the afternoon and at my house. I still play the piano, when the rgeular pianist is absent, am song leader occiassionally and assist the Secretary and Treasurer with her work Sunday mornings. If a substitute teacher is needed, I am also available.

2. Choir.

We have a fine volunteer choir under the leadership of one of more

3. What are your plans for the next period?

I have made plans to leave Fairbanks and return to the States about the middle of October. Until then, I shall continue our regular activities on Sunday and during the week. But, will not attempt anything new, since the time is so short.

Attach materials which you have developed which you think will have value to other war service workers as well as pictures and publicity material which can be used in the promotion of the War-time Service Fund.

DUPLICATE COPY
Send to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

Memorandum

Voucher for the month of Aug. 15 - Sept. 15

with report attached was mailed Sept. 17

DATE

Reports are to be made in triplicate. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, 156 5th Ave, New York 10, N. Y.

A second copy of Report is to be mailed to the Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

The worker is to retain the third copy for his or her own file.

capable members of the community. We had about twenty in the group. But, with many of our service men leaving us we will have less until the Fairbank's boys return home and rejoin the choir. The quality of the choir is excellent for the size of the church and when you realize that most of them are chorus singers not solo material. S/Sgt. Esrey, the former organist of one of the Philadelphia Presbyterian Churches has had much to do with this. We lose his services this week.

3. Eskimo Worship Service and Sunday School

I assist Rev. Champlin at this service and teach the Sunday School following the opening exercises in the auditorium. We have averaged about 15 in the S.S. and this will build itself up as the weather gets colder.

4. Intermediate C. E.

This group meets every Sunday evening at 6:15 for a worship service. It also has been going through the stages of reorganization after the summer months and especially so since many of our the members had graduated to the older society upstairs. We are now running a contest to develop interest and build the society to it s former size of 20-up. They have held their parties with the older group but have an occasional one by themselves. They go Bowling once a week on Saturday evenings together and seem to enjoy it very much. They also will form the bas is of the Intermediate Choir again this Fall.

5. Senior Young People Society

This group meets in Young Memorial Hall each Sunday evening at 6:30 for a worship and devotional service. The group is getting back into its stride again after the summer season. They had an attendance of 23 last Sunday which is very good considering how many of the old timers have left already. They Bowl once a week and have a party on the average of twice amonth-sometimes oftener is there is an urge for one.

6. Fellowship Hour.

Comes after the Evening Service Sunday evening and is made up of,primarily, games, a "sing song" a good movie, slides, etc. and light refreshments. The attendance has averaged about 15 for this past month.

7. Tuesday's Canteen.

A Social time for the young people, sometimes in the form of a Weiner Roast, a theater party, a game night at the church or the manse, etc. Lately, they have become very enthusiastic about Bowling. Refreshments usually follow.

8. Girl Scouts

Meets every Wednesday either at the church or at the Girl Scout Cabin itself. We are also getting organized again for the Fall and are working very faithfully on passing many of our Second Class Badges. The troop has a membership of 15 now but it will increase as the girls return after their vacations and get into the groove again.

9. Northern Light

This is a paper put out by the young people once aweek on Thursday evenings after choir practice. I am the advisor and write several articles for them. We distribute it to the congregation on Sunday and send them out to the service men and other members of the church who have left the vicinity twice amonth.

10. Church Calendar

I print the church calendar each Saturday, running off about 150 copies each week. I still have much to learn about its operation but I feel I have gained wonderful knowledge concerning it during my year's stay here.

11. Newspaper Reporter

I write up the news for the two newspapers each week. Lately , in one of the papers we have been given a column called "Presbyerian News".

SEP 21 1945
SEP 2 1945

September 17,1945

Dear Dr. Jackman,

I have received your letter of September 14th. and decided I might as well answer it now and send it in with my monthly report.

I would like to accept your offer of paying my way entirely, from Fairbanks to Detroit, Michigan and continue my salary until the 31.st. of October. I believe that is a very considerate offer and I thank you very much for it. I have always been of the opinion that I like to find my own jobs and not have someone else do it for me. What I will take up when I return to the States is still history. I would like to finish my Masters at Columbia but don't have the resources to do that immediately. I could go back to teaching. My Superintendent told me that when I turned in my contract a year ago August. But, I have so enjoyed church work that I believe I will try and find something along that line, after I have taken off several weeks to get acquainted with my family again and to recuperate from the strenuous life that Alaskans live.

I appreciate you having the War-Time Service send my advance money for travel. The sooner it arrives the better. For passages on the boats are at a premium , these days. And the sooner I can get them signed on the dotted line, the better for me. I still haven't heard when I will definately sail. They said it might be alittle before the 15th. or perhaps alittle after it. Whenever they can work me in. I will send you a statement of my expenses on arrival in Detroit.

Cordially yours,

Gertrude Bechtel

Dale
Bechtel Folder

Memorandum September 20, 1945
To - - Mr. Thomas B. Foster
From - Dr. J. Earl Jackman

Miss Gertrude Bechtel is leaving Fairbanks whenever she can get reservations in October. This may be early in the month or not until after the middle of the month. I would suggest that you forward her a check for $350. which ought to be more than sufficient for her travel expenses. I have written her that we would ask you to do this and she can make an accounting to us when she arrives home in Detroit.

Miss Bechtel has indicated that if we pay her return she will consider our agreement at an end and will have no further claim upon us for employment when she returns. I want to talk to you about this later.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
JEJ:FK Unit of Work in Alaska

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

September 21, 1945

The Rev. Walter Getty
Room 501
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Dear Walter:

You have had the report that Miss Betty Braun is coming out from Anchorage during the month of September. We have asked War Time Service to forward travel amount to her and secure an accounting later so that we can divide with you the exact amount of her return expense. She is leaving there about the middle of September and should be paid for the entire month which will cover the time of her return to the States.

We have not had a replacement for her. Miss Elenor Altman of Pittsburgh desires to go to Alaska but will not be ready until the end of January. She was here at the office the other day and we tried to call you to see if you could see her early Thursday morning before she took her train for Pittsburgh.

Meanwhile, Mr. Armstrong is without the necessary help to continue his program. He reports that he has a Mrs. Darnell, a member of their own Church and a volunteer worker in their Church and Chapel program, who would be competent to help them temporarily until we can find a permanent replacement. Since they needed an immediate answer and I could not reach you by telephone, I authorized him to go ahead for the present. We raised the question of salary for her and asked that a report be sent on this. We shall communicate with you as soon as we have additional information. The salary certainly will not be more and has a slight possibility of being less. If we employ a local person, we will have no expense for travel.

We still do not have the question of Harold Fredsell's appropriation straightened out for Skagway. We had asked you to check on your records to see if you had sent $75. direct for the months of June, July, and August. He had reported to us that he had received the $75.- direct from you and also a check from us for one month of the sametime. In order to straighten this out, we suggested that the $75.- from you should cover the months of June, July, and August and we delayed our payment then until September. He in turn

used the $75.- from you to cover the three months prior to the time in which there was no appropriation made but in which he had the same expense for this work.

We have sent him his September check which we collected from you, but have no money in our hands to cover June, July, and August. You need to make a decision whether the $75. which was sent directly to him is to cover that same period or whether you will allow him this grant to cover the three prior months for which no appropriation was made. If you allow it to cover the three prior months then there is due him $75. for June, July, and August. If you will not allow this request then he has received the full amount for these three months.

We discover that our Treasury did not forward his May check. The money is here and will be paid to him with his October check which clears this matter so far as we are concerned. We will await your decision on the question of applying the $75. which was sent directly to the later or earlier three months period.

We regret this difficulty because he may be financially embarrassed. Prices are very high there and he is living on a very close margin. He is the only one who has reported this difficulty to us.

Confirming our conversation of a few days ago, Miss Gertrude Bechtel is returning to the States from Fairbanks. She has indicated that if we will pay her transportation she will release us from any further commitment. She is coming out some time during October and has had no vacation so we ought to pay her for the month of October. War Service has been asked to forward a travel allowance to cover her expenses. She will give us a full accounting when she returns to her home in Detroit, and the cost of her travel can be divided between War Service and Camp and Church. Her return will also stop her appropriation for program allowance. It is not clear yet whether the situation there demands another worker under the same arrangements. We shall seek this information and write you later.

Thank you and the Committee for all your cooperation in assisting our missionaries in Alaska to give their utmost service.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

OCT 1 1945

First Presbyterian Church

N. HARRY CHAMPLIN, MINISTER

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"--Mt. 16:18

MANSE: 703 CUSHMAN STREET

"HE IS BUILDING OUR CHURCH"

Seventh and Cushman Streets, Fairbanks, Alaska

September 27, 1945.
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Dr. Jackman,

In your last letter to me, you asked if I could give you any facts on the growth of Alaska. I have a few now which Dr. E. Stanley Jones gave us at one of his meetings, which I will pass on to you.

Fairbanks isn't progressing toward becoming a city like Anchorage and the majority of the citizens don't seem to mind or care. About 6000 people occupy its homes. Dr. Jones maintains that there are very few if any cities in the United States with 6000 inhabitants which would lack a public water system and a sewage disposal system. Still Fairbanks does. A minority tried to last Spring but the thing fell through. Also, he stresses that very few cities of this size would stand for the lack of cement roads. We have two blocks now. The rest of the roads, through the town, are dirt and mud. This spring it's been mostly the latter. We lack sidewalks along many of the streets. Those that there are are in quite poor condition. The school is very badly overcrowded and lacks many of the things that children should have when they go through High School. I stress this, because the general run of children up here go no farther than the twelfth grade. What he doesn't get in the first 12 grades, he'll never get unless he's an exception and studies on the side after working hours. The Playground facilities are fair but need more development. Most of the building that occupy our streets are saloons or drinking establishments. There are over 43 in number or 1 for every 150 of the citizens of Fairbanks. Nice environment for the growing child!

It isn't that the town lacks money. There aren't enough civic minded citizens living in this town. The people that came to Alaska, for the most part, came to make money. The other kind are in the minority and haven't ganged up together, as yet, and stuck their necks out for what they stand for and believe. Dr. Jones suggested that these folks get-together and back a good man to the teeth and then they could do something to clean up the town and make it a city they could be proud of.

Some of the more consciencious organizations like the Parent Teachers' Association are striving in the right direction, in the financing and backing of a Community Center for the Teen Agers. They call it "Teen Town" and have a full-time director for it. Another move, is the beginning of a Community Camp for Fairbankers for the summer at Harding Lake. The facilities will be there for the use of responsible individuals and groups.

First Presbyterian Church

N. HARRY CHAMPLIN, MINISTER

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"--Mt. 16:18

MANSE: 703 CUSHMAN STREET

"HE IS BUILDING OUR CHURCH"

Seventh and Cushman Streets, Fairbanks, Alaska

Alaska, for the first time in its history, is organizing a Boy Scout Council which will have its center in Ketchikan. There is at least one troop in each of the larger towns. This year, with the formation of the council, Alaska has its own Scout Executive, who is in Fairbanks, this week, helping the local committees in developing Scouting to its fullest. The Girl Scouts haven't been as progressive. We have one troop here but the other cities are not quite so fortunate. Anchorage is thinking the matter over and Miss. Braun was quite interested when we talked the matter over this summer at camp.

Other young organizations like the CampFire Girls and other boy's groups haven't taken root in the interior, to my knowledge. They do have a very fine 4-H Set-Up, which functions only in the Spring and Summer. This latter group has a definate camping period for the youngsters several times during the summer.

I was surprised at the well organized church program that so many of the religious organizations had here in Fairbanks. A goodly number of the smaller town churches in the States had better sit up and take notice. And I believe the work will keep going ahead as long as they have men and women at the helm like the Champlins of the Presbyterian church, the Luthros at the Lutheran and the Morgans at the Nazarene. They do need more consciencious givers if their repective plants are to be enlarged and be able to do the good they have started.

The hotel accomodations are going to have to be greatly increased in the very near future in all the main thoroughfares, the restaurant situation stepped up, and traveling accomodations doubled, if all the people who wish to visit Alaska in the future are to be take care of.

Dr. Jones, again, suggested that Alaska push the matter of becoming a State immediately if for no other reason than to protect herself and her abundant resources of fish and gold. At the present time, he said, they are in the hands of a few large corporations and are being taken out of the territory for their own personal worth. That shouldn't be. And that is my own personal opinion. If Alaska were a State like one of the forty eight, she should,in time, become as progressive and self sufficient as any other one.

I was wondering, Dr. Jackman, if the Wartime Service Fund had sent my travel money. As yet it hasn't arrived and any day I'm expecting to have to buy my ticket and if I pay my bills on the first of the month I, personnally would m'c have enough to take care of the ticket too

Sincerely,

Becky

sent by Year. 9/24/45 # 37423 p350 order

OCT 9 1945

October 5, 1945.
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Dr. Jackman,

The day after I wrote you concerning my Travel Money, it arrived. Thank you so much for your generous sum. Since its arrival, I have made the final plans.

The Army has taken over about 90% of the boats now being operated by the Alaska Steamship Line. Thus making it quite difficult for the Line to do too much for the civilians in Alaska. They told me last August when I first wrote them that they would do their best by me. But, not to count too much on getting out exactly when I specifiied. Last week, they wired me, saying they had a berth for me for the boat leaving the sixth of October. If I didn't take this, they couldn't promise me anything definately later. I would just have to take a chance. I didn't think it fair to leave before my year was up. So I cancelled the boat reservation, and made one with the P. A. A. for the 16th. of October. I have never flown more than a short distance and I'm quite thrilled with this oportunity. So I hope the above meets with your approval.

My father tells me that he has a meeting in New York about the first of November. So, if they can get the gas for the car, I'm planning to come East with them then. If it is satisfactory to you, I will submit my statement at that time. Otherwise I can mail it to you at an earlier date.

Sincerely,
Gertrude Bechtel

OCT 19 1945

Yukon Ptry

MONTHLY REPORT

WAR SERVICE UNIT
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Reports are to be made in *triplicate*. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, or to Synod or Presbytery Treasurer as directed. A second copy is to be mailed to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed. The worker is to retain the third copy. (Use other side and additional 8½x11 sheets as needed.)

Church or Project served Fairbanks Presbyterian For the month ending October 15, 1945

Synod _____ Presbytery Yukon

Name & address of worker Gertrude Bechtel, Box 2157, Fairbanks, Alaska

1. What marked change has there been in the situation which would increase or decrease the need for your services?

(10/16/45)

I am expecting to leave Fairbanks and my home for one year, Tuesday morning on the early Seattle plane. It has been a year of work which I won't soon forget. It would have been far from drugery to have been able to stay until April and work with these wonderful people. I just hope that during my stay here I have made the work a little lighter for Rev. Champlin and his splendid wife, have contribute something toward making all the young people I have come contact with better Christians, and have started something which the volunteer help will wish to continue.

2. What were your activities during the past month? Express your judgment as to the effectiveness of the various phases of your work. List activities and average attendance of these. State number of visits made.

Sundays:

1. Sunday School for all ages.
   Pianist, Treasurer(tremporarily)
2. Morning Worship.
   Choir
3. Eskimo Service and Sunday School
   Assistant Pianist
   Sunday School teacher
4. Intermediate C.E.
   Advisor. I am especially proud of this group and the way they are responding to our Fall program. It has growing tremendously in the last month.
5. Senior Young People.
   and substitute teacher.
6. Evening Worship.
7. Fellowship Hour.

3. What are your plans for the next period?

I have arranged for various members of the congregation, both civilian and Service, to take over various of my past duties when I return to the States. They with the splendid leadership of the Champlins willcarry on where we left at my departure.

I, personlly, would like to return to Union and Columbia nd finish my M.A. But, the lack of funds may make it necessary for me to work for six months and return next Fall or this Spring sometime. I believe I would like to continue in Religious Education, because the work has been a constant Thrill to me ever since I undertook it in Seward.

Attach materials which you have developed which you think will have value to other war service workers as well as pictures and publicity material which can be used in the promotion of the War-time Service Fund.

DUPLICATE COPY
Send to Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed.

Memorandum

Voucher for the month of October

with report attached was mailed

October 15.
DATE

Reports are to be made in triplicate. The original with voucher attached is to be mailed to the War Service Unit, 156 5th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

A second copy of Report is to be mailed to the Presbytery or Synod Headquarters as directed

The worker is to retain the third copy for his or her own file.

Monday

Last Monday of the month - Sunday School Teachers' and Officers' Meeting

Tuesday

Weekday School for boys and girls of Primary ages.
Handwork
Stories
Songs
Play
Under the leadership of Mrs. Champlin, the Mother's Club and myself.
Boy Scouts
Mother's Club once a month.
Trustee's and Session Meeting once a month.

Wednesday

Girl Scouts each week
Leader
Church "Cover-dish" Supper once a month.
Eskimo Mid Week Service every two weeks.
Assistant

Thursday

Ladies Aid twice a month.
Choir practice
member
"Northern Light" publication
Advisor

Friday

Intermediate Bowling once aweek.
Sponser
Intermediate Party twice amonth.
Bethany Bible Class
Amember

Saturday

Senior Bowling once aweek.
Church calendar